CHAPTER S.0 SUMMARY

This chapter is a summary of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed County of San Diego (County) Zoning Ordinance amendments, prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

S.1 Overview

As required by CEQA, this EIR: (1) assesses the potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the proposed project; (2) identifies potential feasible means of avoiding or substantially lessening significant adverse impacts; and (3) evaluates a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project, including the required No Project Alternative. The County is the "lead agency" for the proposed project evaluated in this EIR, and has the principal responsibility for certifying the EIR and approving the proposed project. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, this EIR consists of an evaluation of the effects of the entire proposed project. This EIR will be used by the County to evaluate the environmental implications of adopting the proposed project, amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

S.2 Project Synopsis

S.2.1 Project Description

The project is composed of proposed amendments to the County's Zoning Ordinance related to wind turbines and meteorological testing (MET) facilities. The amendments consist of clarifications, deletions, and revisions to provide an updated set of definitions, procedures, and standards for review and permitting of wind turbines and MET facilities. The proposed project includes allowing a temporary MET facility that complies with the height designator of the zone without a discretionary permit. The proposed project also includes allowing small wind turbines that meet the definition and specifications of the Zoning Ordinance to be developed without a discretionary permit. Although no land use permits would be required, a Zoning Verification Permit would be required prior to issuance of a building permit to verify that each small wind turbine complies with the definition and specifications of the Zoning Ordinance. Large wind turbines, as defined by the Zoning Ordinance, would continue to be subject to Major Use Permit procedures and requirements, and would require separate project-specific environmental review. Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance related to large wind turbines are proposed to bring development parameters up to date with technological changes that affect design standards of wind turbines, as well as to establish a low frequency C-weighted sound-level limit.

The proposed project also includes a General Plan Amendment (GPA) intended to accomplish the following: (1) modify the Boulevard chapter of the Mountain Empire Subregional Plan (Boulevard Community Plan) to allow large wind turbine projects through the Major Use Permit

process; and (2) allow small wind turbine projects in the Borrego Springs Community Plan, but continue to prohibit large wind turbines in areas where viewsheds would be adversely impacted. The potential environmental effects associated with the GPA are included in the project analyzed in this EIR.

S.2.2 Project Objectives

The County recognizes that significant efforts are currently underway on both the federal and state levels to increase the production of energy from renewable sources, such as wind and solar. With the evolution of wind technology, wind energy has become a viable renewable energy resource. The purpose of the proposed project is to facilitate the development of wind turbines in an effort to help meet the current and future federal and state goals for renewable energy production. Specific objectives for the proposed project are as follows:

1. Facilitate the use of renewable wind energy within the County pursuant to existing and future statewide goals
2. Maximize the production of energy from renewable wind sources to assist the County in furthering federal goals under Section 211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005
3. Reduce the potential for energy shortages and outages by facilitating local energy supply
4. Streamline and clarify the approval process for the development and operation of small wind turbines
5. Minimize the potential for land use conflicts that may arise through the development of wind turbines
6. Allow the development of small wind turbines without a discretionary permit
7. Allow temporary MET facilities that comply with the height designator of the zone to be permitted without a discretionary permit
8. Update regulations for large wind turbines to be consistent with current wind turbine technology and designs.

S.2.3 Project Location

The proposed project, amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, would apply to properties located in the unincorporated portions of the County over which the County has land use jurisdiction. The County is bounded by the Counties of Orange and Riverside to the north, the County of Imperial to the east, the United States/Mexico international border to the south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. There are two defined project areas: (1) for Zoning Ordinance amendments

related to small wind turbines and MET facilities, the project area includes all properties in unincorporated portions of the County over which the County has jurisdiction; (2) for Zoning Ordinance amendments related to large wind turbines, the project area is limited to wind resource areas within unincorporated portions of the County. The areas within the County with the most wind resources are located in the east.

S.2.4 Environmental Setting

The entire project area is generally a semiarid environment that supports a wide range of habitats and biological communities. These habitats and communities range from grasslands to shrublands to coniferous forests. Additionally, these habitats and communities vary greatly depending on the ecoregion, soils and substrate, elevation, and topography. Terrain within the project area varies from west to east, sloping up from the ocean, transitioning to rolling hills and then steep mountains, which finally give way to flat to gently sloping deserts.

The urban portions of the project area are predominantly in the west, either surrounding the City of San Diego or interspersed between the City of San Diego and the other incorporated areas. Farther east, the land is less developed, with the largest developed area in the eastern portion of the project area being the community of Borrego Springs. The areas that have been developed in the eastern portion of the County have been predominantly developed in a rural fashion, with large lot sizes, agricultural or related uses, and limited infrastructure and service availability.

The baseline for a project is normally the physical condition that exists when the Notice of Preparation (NOP) is published. The NOP for the proposed project was published on September 9, 2010. However, the CEQA Guidelines and applicable case law recognize that the date for establishing an environmental baseline cannot be rigid. Physical environmental conditions vary over time; thus, the use of environmental baselines that differ from the date of the NOP may be appropriate when conducting the environmental analysis. The environmental setting for significant environmental effects of the proposed project is further explained in the beginning of each section of Chapter 2.0, Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project.

Regional access within the project area is provided by Interstates 5, 15, and 805, running north and south throughout the western portion of the project area, and Interstate 8, running east and west throughout the central and southern portions of the project area. Additional access within the project area is provided by State Highways 76, 78, and 94, generally running east and west across the project area, and State Highways 67, 79, and 163, generally running north and south across the project area.

S.3 Summary of Significant Effects and Mitigation Measures that Reduce or Avoid the Significant Effects

Table S-1 summarizes the results of the environmental analysis completed for the project in Chapter 2.0. Mitigation measures have been identified to reduce environmental impacts associated with aesthetics, agriculture, air quality, biology, cultural resources, hazards, noise and transportation and traffic and are included in Table S-1. The mitigation measures would reduce potentially significant impacts, but not below a significant level. Additional "infeasible" mitigation measures were considered in attempting to reduce impacts to below a level of significance. A detailed analysis of significant environmental effects, mitigation measures and infeasible mitigation measures is discussed in Chapter 2.0 of this EIR.

S.4 Areas of Controversy

CEQA Guidelines Section 15123(b)(2) requires that an EIR identify areas of controversy, including issues raised by other agencies and the public. Areas of known controversy associated with the proposed project that are relevant to the EIR are as follows:

- Development of wind turbines and MET facilities that could affect scenic vistas, visual resources, agricultural lands, special-status species and wildland fires
- Wind turbine height and impacts to avian wildlife (bats, birds)
- Low frequency noise associated with wind turbines
- Adequacy of setbacks
- Amendments to the Boulevard Community Plan and Borrego Springs Community Plan.

S.5 Issues to be Resolved by the Decision-Making Body

The County Board of Supervisors (BOS) serves as the decision making body for the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments. Issues to be resolved by the BOS include: (i) whether or how to mitigate the significant effects of the project, (ii) whether to reject or approve one of the alternatives to the proposed project and other environmental findings, and (iii) whether to reject or approve the proposed project.

As part of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments, MET facilities and small wind turbines that meet the zoning verification requirements would be developed without discretionary review. Thus, there would be no means to ensure mitigation of significant effects since no discretionary permits would be required. Large wind turbines, as defined by the County's Zoning Ordinance, will continue to be subject to Major Use Permit procedures and require separate project-specific environmental review. However, it cannot be concluded at this stage that impacts related to future large wind

turbines developed pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would be avoided or mitigated to a level below significant. The BOS will decide if the significant and unmitigated effects associated with aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards, land use, noise, and transportation/traffic can be reduced.

Mitigation measures, as listed in Table S-1, will reduce direct and cumulative impacts associated with wind turbines, but not to a level below significant. Other mitigation measures, as described in Chapter 2.0, would reduce impacts to less than significant; however, they were determined to be infeasible. For example, one infeasible mitigation measure would remove a provision of the proposed project that consists of a waiver of the C-weighted sound limit provision applied to future large wind turbines. This measure is considered infeasible because some future large wind turbine projects may not be able to meet the new Zoning Ordinance provisions related to C-weighted noise and still provide a viable wind energy project; therefore, it conflicts with the project objectives. However, it is ultimately the decision of the BOS to determine if mitigation measures, such as these, are feasible or infeasible. In determining how to mitigate significant effects, the BOS may decide that some infeasible mitigation measures, such as the one previously described would still meet project objectives and would otherwise be feasible to reduce significant impacts to a level less than significant. The BOS will adopt detailed findings on the feasibility of mitigation measures to substantially lessen or avoid the significant effects on the environment. The BOS will also decide whether to adopt feasible mitigation measures, such as those presented in Table S-1.

In addition to mitigation measures, the BOS will decide whether or not to adopt the proposed project or any of the project alternatives that would reduce significant impacts while still meeting the project objectives. Regarding those alternatives that would substantially lessen the significant environmental effects identified in this EIR, the BOS must either adopt the alternative or find it to be infeasible. The BOS may also want to consider whether to adopt specific components or a combination of the proposed project and project alternatives. For example, the proposed project includes a GPA, whereas the Limited Large Wind Turbine Alternative would retain the existing policies and language of the General Plan.

Because this EIR has identified adverse environmental effects that are unavoidable, the BOS must also determine if the adverse environmental effects are considered acceptable with consideration of economic, social, technological, and other relevant benefits of the proposed project. In making this determination, it is relevant for the BOS to consider the existing Zoning Ordinance in comparison to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments. The BOS would prepare a statement of overriding considerations as described in CEQA Section 15093 to reflect the ultimate balancing of competing public objectives if the BOS decides to approve the proposed project, project alternatives, or components of either, which have the potential to cause one or more significant effects on the environment.

S.6 Project Alternatives

CEQA requires, in Section 15126.6 of the CEQA Guidelines, that an EIR describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project or to the proposed project location that would feasibly attain most of the project objectives but would avoid or lessen any significant environmental impacts. An EIR should evaluate the environmental impacts of the alternatives compared to the proposed project. Chapter 4.0, Project Alternatives, of the EIR describes and evaluates project alternatives and is intended to implement the requirements set forth in the CEQA Guidelines. Chapter 4.0 also identifies the Environmentally Superior Project Alternative as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(2).

S.6.1 Limited Small Wind Turbine Alternative

The Limited Small Wind Turbine Alternative involves three components. For each component, this analysis will focus on only the environmental issue areas that have fewer impacts than in the proposed project. The components of the Limited Small Wind Turbine Alternative are described as follows:

- Reduced Project Area – Small wind turbines permitted without discretionary review would be allowed only in previously disturbed/developed areas.
- Reduced Height – The wind turbine tower height, defined as the distance from existing grade at the base of the wind turbine tower to the top of the tower, excluding the turbine, shall not exceed 65 feet.
- Fewer turbines – A maximum of two small wind turbines would be allowed on a legal lot as an accessory use to the primary use of the lot in accordance with the following requirements in Section 6951 of the Zoning Ordinance. One additional wind turbine (three total) would be allowed when all turbines are mounted on an existing permitted structure, such as an accessory structure allowed pursuant to the Accessory Use Regulations in Section 6150, and when all wind turbines comply with the height limit of the zone and main building setbacks.

S.6.2 Limited Large Wind Turbine Alternative

The Limited Large Wind Turbine Alternative would involve three substantial changes as compared to the proposed project. First, the alternative would reduce the project area and shift development away from village areas by limiting turbine development to rural and semirural areas as designated by the County General Plan and requiring a 2,000-foot setback from interstate highways. Second, large wind turbines would be permitted within wind resource areas classified as "fair" through "superb." Large wind turbines, therefore, would not be permitted within "marginal" wind resource areas as they would be under the proposed project (see Figure 4-1, Limited Large Wind Turbine Alternative). Approximately 807,984 acres within the County and under the County's jurisdiction

are designated as "marginal" through "superb," of which approximately 405,100 acres are "marginal" (NREL 2009). Therefore, this alternative would substantially reduce the potential area for large wind turbine development by about half (approximately 402,884 acres). Third, the Limited Large Wind Turbine Alternative would retain the existing policies and language of the General Plan, including those policies of the Boulevard and Borrego Springs communities that have strict regulations and processing requirements for large wind turbine projects in the Boulevard community and prohibit both small and large wind turbines in the Borrego Springs community. No General Plan Amendment is proposed as a part of this alternative.

S.6.3 No Project (No Amendment) Alternative

In accordance with Section 15126.6(e) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the No Project Alternative includes a discussion of the existing conditions at the time the NOP was published. The No Project Alternative assumes that the existing Zoning Ordinance would remain in effect. The main differences between the No Project Alternative and the proposed project is that the proposed project provides an updated set of definitions, procedures, and standards for review and permitting of wind turbines and MET facilities. Additionally, with respect to large wind turbines, the proposed project includes a GPA that would modify the Boulevard and Borrego Springs community plans. Under the No Project Alternative, the existing General Plan and community plans would remain unchanged, thereby prohibiting both small and large wind turbines from being developed in the community of Borrego Springs and making it difficult for large wind turbines to be developed in the community of Boulevard.

S.6.4 Environmentally Superior Alternative

As compared to the proposed project, the Limited Small Wind Turbine Alternative, Limited Large Wind Turbine Alternative, and No Project Alternative would result in reduced environmental impacts. The Limited Small Wind Turbine Alternative consists of three components, which, when combined, would decrease environmental impacts as compared to the proposed project. Specifically, this alternative would reduce impacts related to archaeological resources, paleontological resources, and human remains to less than significant. The Limited Large Wind Turbine Alternative would reduce the potential areas where large wind turbines could be developed and would retain the existing policies in the Boulevard and Borrego Springs community plans. Although this alternative would lessen environmental impacts as compared to the proposed project, many of the same impacts would remain significant and unavoidable. The No Project Alternative would decrease environmental impacts by continuing to require discretionary review for most small wind turbines/MET facilities; however, this alternative would not meet any project objectives. Therefore, the Limited Small Wind Turbine Alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
2.1 Aesthetics				
1. Scenic Vistas: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would potentially result in direct and cumulative impacts to scenic vistas due to the introduction of new vertical elements within the viewshed of a scenic vista **(AES-1, AES-8)**. Large Turbine(s): The proposed project would alleviate current restrictions on large wind turbine projects that may potentially result in direct and cumulative impacts to a scenic vista due to taller vertical elements and the potential to interrupt or detract from a scenic vista that previously did not include infrastructure or development **(AES-2, AES-9)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	**M-AES-1:** During the environmental review process for future Major Use Permits for wind turbines, the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Visual Resources shall be applied. When aesthetic impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated.	Significant and Unavoidable
2. Scenic Resources: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would potentially result in direct and cumulative impacts to scenic resources through the removal or alteration of a scenic resource during the course of development **(AES-3, AES-10)**. Large Turbine(s): The proposed project would alleviate current restrictions on large wind turbine projects, such as setbacks and height, which may potentially result in direct and cumulative impacts to a scenic vista. Setback reductions may allow large turbines to be located near the viewshed of a scenic resource, and increases in the height limit may result in taller vertical elements near the viewshed of a scenic resource **(AES-4, AES-11)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	See **M-AES-1**.	Significant and Unavoidable

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
3. Visual Character or Quality: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would potentially result in direct and cumulative impacts to visual character or quality due to potential visual degradation impacts, such as increased visual contrasts, view blockage, or skylining (showing the outline of the facilities) from sensitive viewing locations **(AES-5, AES-12)**. Large Turbine(s): The proposed project would alleviate current restrictions on large wind turbine projects, such as setbacks and height, which may result in potential visual degradation impacts **(AES-6, AES-13)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	See **M-AES-1**.	Significant and Unavoidable
4. Light and Glare: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in significant impacts from lighting or glare. Large Turbine(s): The proposed project would alleviate current restrictions on large wind turbine projects, which may result in significant impacts associated with light or glare due to compliance with Federal Aviation Administration direction and shadow flicker effects **(AES-7, AES-14)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	**M-AES-2:** Require that a Lighting Mitigation Plan be prepared as part of the Major Use Permit discretionary review process. **M-AES-3:** Require that a Shadow Flicker Study be prepared as part of the Major Use Permit discretionary review process.	Significant and Unavoidable
2.2 Agriculture				
1. Conversion of Farmland: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in significant	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	**M-AGR-1:** During the environmental review process for future Major Use Permits for wind turbines, the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Agricultural Resources shall be applied. When impacts to Farmland are determined to be	Significant and Unavoidable

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
adverse effects due to the conversion of Important Farmland. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would potentially result in direct and cumulative impacts related to the conversion of Farmland **(AGR-1, AGR-5)**.			significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures within the County Guidelines include: avoidance of agricultural resources; preservation of agriculture; and inclusion of compatibility buffers near areas intended for agricultural uses.	
2. Agricultural Zoning and Williamson Act Contracts: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in significant adverse effects related to conflicts with agricultural zoning and Williamson Act contracts. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would potentially result in direct and cumulative impacts to agricultural zoning and Williamson Act contracts **(AGR-2, AGR-6)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	See **M-AGR-1**.	Significant and Unavoidable
3. Forest or Timberland Conflicts: The proposed project would not result in significant impacts related to forest land or timberland conflicts.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
4. Loss or Conversion of Forest Land: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in significant adverse effects related to the loss or conversion of forest land. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would potentially result in direct and cumulative impacts related to the loss or conversion of forest land **(AGR-3, AGR-7)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	**M-AGR-2:** During the environmental review process for future Major Use Permits for wind turbines, the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources shall be applied. When impacts to forest land are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures within the County Guidelines include: avoidance of sensitive resources; preservation of habitat; revegetation; and resource management.	Significant and Unavoidable

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
5. Indirect Conversion of Farmland or Forest Land: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in significant adverse effects due to indirect conversion of Farmland or forest land. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would potentially result in indirect and cumulative impacts related to the conversion of Farmland or forest land **(AGR-4, AGR-8)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	See **M-AGR-1** and **M-AGR-2**.	Significant and Unavoidable
2.3 Air Quality				
1. Conformance to the San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (SDRAQS) and State Implementation Plan (SIP): The proposed project would not result in significant impacts related to conformance to the SDRAQS and SIP.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
2. Conformance to Federal and State Air Quality Standards: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not exceed screening-level thresholds and would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of federal and state air quality standards. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments may result in significant direct and cumulative impacts due to emissions from construction activities, which could potentially violate air quality standards **(AQ-1, AQ-4)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	**M-AQ-1:** During the environmental review process for future discretionary permits for wind turbines, the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Air Quality shall be applied. When impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures within the County Guidelines include: dust control efforts; grading or fuel use restrictions; use of modified equipment; and restrictions on vehicle idling time.	Significant and Unavoidable

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
3. Non-Attainment Criteria Pollutants: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in significant impacts associated with non-attainment criteria pollutants. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments may result in significant direct and cumulative impacts due to emissions from construction activities, which could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment **(AQ-2, AQ-5)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	See **M-AQ-1**.	Significant and Unavoidable
4. Sensitive Receptors: The proposed project would not result in the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
5. Odors: The proposed project would not generate objectionable odors or result in the exposure of sensitive receptors to objectionable odors.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No Mitigation Required	Less Than Significant
2.4 Biology				
1. Candidate, Sensitive, or Special-Status Species: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would have the potential to result in direct and cumulative impacts to candidate, sensitive or special-status species due to removal of areas of sensitive habitat and bird or bat strikes **(BIO-1, BIO-7)**. Large Turbine(s): The proposed project would alleviate current restrictions on large wind	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	**M-BIO-1:** During the environmental review process for future Major Use Permits for wind turbines, the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources shall be applied. When impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures within the County Guidelines include: avoidance of sensitive resources; preservation of habitat; revegetation; resource management; and restrictions on lighting, runoff,	Significant and Unavoidable

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
turbine projects, such as setbacks and height, which would have the potential to result in direct and cumulative impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in the County **(BIO-2, BIO-8)**.			access, and/or noise. **M-BIO-2:** Update the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources to include, or incorporate by reference, recommendations from the California Department of Fish and Game, the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee, the USFWS Draft Guidance, and the California Energy Commission (e.g., California Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development). Examples of recommended mitigation measures include: site screening; pre-permitting monitoring; acoustic monitoring; buffer zone inclusion; reduction of foraging resources near turbines; specific lighting to reduce bird collisions; post-construction monitoring; and avian protection plans.	
2. Riparian Habitat or Sensitive Natural Community: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would have the potential to result in significant direct and cumulative impacts to riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities due to removal of areas of sensitive habitat **(BIO-3, BIO-9)**. Large Turbine(s): The proposed project would alleviate current restrictions on large wind turbine projects, such as setbacks and height, which would have the potential to result in direct and cumulative impacts to riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities in the County **(BIO-2, BIO-8)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	See **M-BIO-1** and **M-BIO-2**.	Significant and Unavoidable
3. Federally Protected Wetlands: The proposed project would not result in substantial adverse impacts to federally protected wetlands.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
4. Wildlife Movement: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would have the potential to result in significant direct and cumulative impacts due to the introduction of new structures or vertical elements, or due to ground disturbance that could interfere with wildlife movement or impede the use of nursery sites **(BIO-4, BIO-9)**. Large Turbine(s): The proposed project would alleviate current restrictions on large wind turbine projects, such as setbacks and height, which would have the potential to result in direct and cumulative impacts to wildlife movement in the County **(BIO-5, BIO-10)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	See **M-BIO-1** and **M-BIO-2**.	Significant and Unavoidable
5. Local Policies, Ordinances, Adopted Plans: The project would not result in significant impacts to local policies, ordinances, and adopted plans.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
2.5 Cultural Resources				
1. Historical Resources: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would have the potential to result in direct and cumulative impacts to a historical resource since it could potentially result in the physical demolition, destruction, or alteration of the historical resource through ground disturbance, or it could alter the setting of the resource when the setting contributes to the resource's significance by introducing new vertical elements **(CUL-1, CUL-5)**. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	**M-CUL-1:** The County shall provide incentives through the Mills Act to encourage the restoration, renovation, or adaptive reuse of historic resources. This will be done by reaching out to property owners with identified historic resources to participate.	Significant and Unavoidable

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in significant impacts relative to historical resources.				
2. Archaeological Resources: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would have the potential to result in direct and cumulative impacts to an archaeological resource since it could potentially result in excavation and grading activities, which have the potential to damage or destroy archaeological resources that may be present on or below the ground surface **(CUL-2, CUL-6)**. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in significant impacts relative to archeological resources.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	No feasible mitigation identified.	Significant and Unavoidable
3. Human Remains: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would have the potential to result in direct and cumulative impacts to human remains since it could potentially result in excavation and grading activities, which have the potential to damage or destroy human remains **(CUL-3, CUL-7)**. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in significant impacts relative to human remains.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	No feasible mitigation identified.	Significant and Unavoidable
4. Paleontological Resources: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	No feasible mitigation identified.	Significant and Unavoidable

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would have the potential to result in direct and cumulative impacts to a paleontological resource since it could result in earth-disturbing activities, which have the potential to damage or destroy fossils in the underlying rock units **(CUL-4, CUL-8)**. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in significant impacts relative to paleontological resources.				
2.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials				
1. Hazardous Substance Handling: The proposed project would not result in significant adverse effects to hazardous emissions or involve hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
2. Accidental Release of Hazardous Materials: The proposed project would not result in significant adverse effects related to the accidental release of hazardous materials.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
3. Hazards to Schools: The proposed project would not result in significant adverse effects to hazardous emissions or involve hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
4. Existing Hazardous Materials Sites: The proposed project would not result in significant adverse effects to existing hazardous materials sites.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
5. Airport Hazards: The proposed project would not result in significant adverse effects to an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, or in the vicinity of a private airstrip.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
6. Emergency Response and Evacuation Plans: The proposed project would not result in significant adverse effects to emergency response and evacuation plans.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
7. Wildland Fires: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would have the potential to result in significant direct and cumulative impacts related to wildland fires **(HAZ-1, HAZ-3)**. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment would have the potential to result in significant direct and cumulative impacts related to wildland fires **(HAZ-2, HAZ-4)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	**M-HAZ-1:** During the environmental review process for future discretionary permits for wind turbines, the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Wildland Fire & Fire Protection shall be applied. When impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures within the County Guidelines include: installation of fire suppression systems; sufficient on-site water storage; inclusion of fire management zones; and funded agreements with fire protection districts.	Significant and Unavoidable
2.7 Land Use				
1. Physically Divide a Community: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not physically divide an established community. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments may result in significant direct and cumulative impacts related to road improvements that could physically divide an established community **(LU-1, LU-2)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	No feasible mitigation identified.	Significant and Unavoidable
2. Conflict with Plans, Policies, and Regulations: The proposed project will not result in significant impacts related to conflicts with land use plans, policies, and regulations.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant

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Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
2.8 Noise				
1. Excessive Noise Levels: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in a significant adverse effect due to excessive noise levels. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments may result in significant direct and cumulative impacts related to low-frequency, C-weighted noise during the operation of large wind turbines **(NOI-1, NOI-4)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	No feasible mitigation identified.	Significant and Unavoidable
2. Excessive Groundborne Vibration: The proposed project would not result in a significant adverse effect due to exposing people to or generating excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
3. Permanent Increase in Ambient Noise Levels: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the proposed project. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments may result in significant direct and cumulative impacts to ambient noise levels related to low-frequency, C-weighted noise during the operation of large wind turbines **(NOI-2, NOI-5)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	No feasible mitigation identified.	Significant and Unavoidable

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
4. Temporary or Periodic Increase in Ambient Noise Levels: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the proposed project. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments may result in significant direct and cumulative impacts to ambient noise levels related to low-frequency, C-weighted noise during the operation of large wind turbines **(NOI-3, NOI-6)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	No feasible mitigation identified.	Significant and Unavoidable
5. Excessive Noise Exposure from a Public or Private Airport: The proposed project would not result in significant adverse effects to an airport land use plan, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, or within the vicinity of a private airstrip that would expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
2.9 Transportation and Traffic				
1. Conflict with Plan, Policy, or Ordinance: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not exceed thresholds and would not conflict with any policy, plan, or ordinance that establishes measures of the of the circulation system performance. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would potentially exceed thresholds and	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	**M-TRAF-1:** During the environmental review process for future Major Use Permits for wind turbines, the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Transportation and Traffic shall be applied. When traffic impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures within the County Guidelines include: traffic signal improvements; physical road improvements; street re-striping and parking prohibitions; fair share contributions toward identified, funded and scheduled projects; and transportation	Significant and Unavoidable

Table S-1
Environmental Issue Areas Analyzed in Chapter 2.0

Issue Topic	Potential Direct Impact	Potential Cumulative Impact	Mitigation Measure(s)	Impact after Mitigation
therefore would potentially directly and cumulatively conflict with a plan, policy, or ordinance that establishes measures of the effectiveness of the circulation system performance **(TRAF-1, TRAF-3)**.			demand management programs.	
2. Conflict with Congestion Management Program (CMP) Guidelines for the Determination of Significance: Small Turbine(s) and MET Facilities: Development of small wind turbines and temporary MET facilities pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would not exceed thresholds and would not conflict with the CMP. Large Turbine(s): Development of large wind turbines pursuant to the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments would potentially directly and cumulatively exceed thresholds and therefore would potentially conflict with the CMP **(TRAF-2, TRAF-4)**.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	See **M-TRAF-1**.	Significant and Unavoidable
3. Road Safety Guidelines for the Determination of Significance: The proposed project would not result in significant impacts relative to road safety.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
4. Emergency Access: The proposed project will not result in significant impacts relative to emergency access.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant
5. Alternative Transportation: The proposed project will not result in significant impacts relative to alternative transportation.	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No mitigation required.	Less Than Significant